

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-16 were pending in the application.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the method uses a functional group of two or more input controls that are identified by a unique key of the function group. An activation flag is associated with the unique key, and the determining of whether any of the input controls has been activated involves inspecting a setting of the single activation flag. Submission of a request for either of the input controls is then selectively disabled if the flag indicates either of the input controls had been previously activated. Dependent claims 2-6 are amended to provide clearer dependency. No new matter is added with support found at least in Applicant's specification at page 7, line 12 to page 8, line 20 with reference to Figure 2.

Independent claim 7 was amended similarly to claim 1 and calls for the functional group comprise a plurality of input controls that each are identified as being members of the group by a group identifier. A flag is associated with the identifier such that determination of prior activation can be achieved by inspecting the value of the flag. Submissions of requests based on input from any of the input controls is selectively disabled based on the value of the flag by disabling submission capability for all of the members of the functional group. Support for the amendment is again found with reference to Figure 2 and corresponding text in Applicant's specification. Dependent claim 9 is amended to correct dependencies.

Independent claims 10, 15, and 16 are amended to clarify the "selectively" disabling resubmission of requests feature of the invention. No new matter is added as support is found at least in Figure 2 (i.e., elements 250-290) and corresponding text in the specification. The art of record teaches that any second clicks of an input button will be prevented, and hence, teach away from this aspect of the claims.

Claims 1-16 remain for consideration by the Examiner.

A. Objection to the Drawings

In the Office Action, Figure 3 was objected to because element 390 was not described in the specification. The specification was amended to include a description of this element.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,237,036 ("Himmel"). This rejection is respectfully traversed based on the following remarks.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for "selectively" disabling resubmission of requests, such as HTTP requests from a web page. The method comprises receiving input relating to a functional group. The group has a "unique key" and comprises two input controls "identified by the unique key." An "activation flag is associated with the unique key." The method further includes determining whether one of the input controls of the functional group has been activated "based on a setting of the activation flag." When any of the input controls has been activated, then the method comprises "selectively disabling submission of a request based on the received input for the functional group." According to the method, the input controls are identified by a group key and a single activation flag can be set for the group indicating whether submission of request is proper based on the value of that activation flag. Himmel fails to teach all of the elements of the method of claim 1, and the method is, therefore, not anticipated by Himmel.

More particularly, the Office Action cites Himmel at col. 4, lines 1-19 for teaching a functional group that comprises two input controls. However, at this citation, Himmel is merely providing a laundry listing of possible HTML constructs for submitting a request and is not teaching that two or more input controls are included in a single functional group as required in claim 1. In fact, at col. 5, lines 30-37 with reference to Figure 3, Himmel teaches setting a submit form variable to "yes" and a user clicking "a select button" at which point the JavaScript checks the value of the submit form variable. Himmel provides no teaching that two input controls are to be grouped into a functional group.

Further, claim 1 is amended to call for the group to have a unique identifier that is then used to identify each input control that is a member of the group. Himmel provides no teaching of this feature of the method of claim 1. Additionally, claim 1 calls for linking an activation flag to the unique identifier such that when an input control is selected by a user the identifier is used to determine if the input control is in a functional group and then the activation flag associated with the identifier can be checked to determine whether any of the input controls for the group have been activated. If so, submission of a request is "selectively" disabled. Himmel fails to teach either the use of an activation flag with a group identifier or the use of selective disablement (which is discussed in more detail with reference to claims 10, 15, and 16). For these reasons, the rejection of claim 1 under Himmel is not supported and should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is believed allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Further, claim 2 specifies that the

activation flag is updated when none of the input controls has been previously activated and then submitting the request. Because Himmel fails to teach grouping two input controls into a functional group having a unique identifier, Himmel also fails to teach updating an activation flag associated with the unique identifier. For this additional reason, claim 2 is allowable over Himmel.

Claim 7 is directed to a method with similar limitations as claim 1, and the arguments provided for allowing claim 1 over Himmel are believed to be equally applicable to claim 7. Claim 7 further specifies that the functional group that is associated with an identifier is part of a web page. Himmel teaches that a submit form variable is associated with a form but fails to teach a functional group in a web page comprising a "plurality of input controls" that are identified as members by the identifier. Further, a flag is associated with the identifier and has "a value indicating activation of any of the members of the functional group." Himmel merely teaches a variable whose value tracks submission of a particular form not whether any of a plurality of input controls has been activated. Hence, claim 7 and claim 8 which depends from claim 7 are believed in condition for allowance over Himmel.

Independent claims 10, 15, and 16 are each amended to more clearly claim the "selective" resubmission feature of the invention not shown by Himmel. Claim 10 calls for a processor that is configured to selectively disable submission of an HTTP request "when a functional group member has been previously submitted, wherein the resubmission is selectively disabled by determining whether confirmation for the HTTP request is allowed and when determined allowed, resubmitting the request." In this manner (and as shown, for example in Figure 2 at elements 250-280"), the processor is enabled to first determine that one of a plurality of input controls was activated and even when activated, to determine if resubmission is proper based on confirmation allowance, and when proper, to resubmit the request. Himmel fails to provide any teaching of resubmitting a request, and hence, claims 10, 15, and 16 are not anticipated by Himmel.

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 3-6, 9, and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Himmel in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,535,883 ("Lee"). This rejection is respectfully traversed based on the following remarks.

Claims 3-6, 9, and 11-14 depend from claims 1, 7, and 10 and are believed allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Further, Lee fails to overcome the deficiencies of Himmel discussed above with reference to claims 1, 7 and 10. Specifically, Lee fails to teach the use of functional groups comprising two or more input controls and the associated use of unique identifiers and activation flags.

In the Office Action, Lee was cited for teaching selective disablement of resubmission. However, there would be no motivation to modify Himmel with the teaching of Lee as Himmel teaches away from allowing any resubmission whatsoever. Himmel discusses in its background the need for very tight control over resubmission of data, such as financial data, and the need for devices on the client side and on the server side "to eliminate duplicate transaction submission" (col. 2, lines 27-33). So, the client side event handler includes Himmel's script "to prevent the browser from submitting multiple transactions" (col. 4, lines 51-63). When the submit form variable is "no", the user selection is ignored and no request is sent and this ensures "that duplicate transactions are not entered in spite of multiple click detection on the client." Hence, Himmel not only does not teach "selective" disablement by determining whether resubmitting is allowed but teaches that once a form is submitted the client side cannot resend the form no matter how many times the submit button is clicked. Further, even if Himmel and Lee were combined, the claimed invention would not be obtained because Himmel teaches that no resubmission is allowed once a form is submitted. Confirmation may be obtained another way with Himmel but it does NOT include resubmission of a request as called for in the claims or for "selectively" disabling submission capabilities.


D. Conclusion

In view of all of the above, the claims are now believed to be allowable, and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due with this Amendment, but any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kent A. Lembke, Reg. No. 44,866
Hogan & Hartson LLP
One Tabor Center
1200 17th Street, Suite 1500
Denver, Colorado 80202
(720) 406-5378 Tel
(303) 899-7333 Fax